

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction, which consists of background of the study, statement of the problems, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1. Research Background

Literary work or literature influences human being life. This is because it contains human value, thought, problem, and conflicts that give new point of view about the way of life. Through literature, people are able to express their thoughts and feelings. Literature can be defined as written fiction by constructing words with carefully uses of language by imagination that has aesthetical element (Meyer, 1997). Literature has some parts, they are poetry, drama, and prose fiction including short story and novel.

Literary works, which shows details of story, phenomenon, and explanation, appear mostly in novel. As a literary work, its purpose is to entertain the readers. In other words, the term “novel” defined as a written documented history that covers numerous kinds of topics which has aesthetical element (Goodyer, 2008). By reading a novel, the reader’s mind brought by author’s imagination, the reader may feel the character’s and author’s feeling by the situation created in the story of novel. Novel does not only entertain, but also give messages and information about culture, history, facts, and opinions to the reader.

Novel has the same elements as a short story. Those elements are character, characteristic, characterization, plot, conflict, setting theme and point of view. However, novel gives more detail and complex in the story than short story. The three major important elements of short story and novel are character, characteristic, and characterization. Cited in a previous research, a research entitled “Conflict Analysis of Main Character In Steel’s” by Diyani (2001) states that character is representation of human being, the inner itself determines thought, speech and behavior, and characterization is the way of writer tells about information of character to the readers (Stevens, 1990:1). Besides, Napitupulu (2009) in her research entitled “An Analysis of The Main Character’s Conflict in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Novel “The Scarlet Letter” defines that characteristic is the personality presented in dramatic narrative work who are interpreted by reader as being endowed with the moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say and what they do in action. From the two statements above, it can be concluded that character is the way of life of human being.

Characteristic of a character is decided as an important element of short story and novel because both of them are related matters. Furthermore, the word that related with character and characterization is characteristic that defined as typical of person or thing, which is decided as the evidence of character’s existence that contributes the plot in story.

Carli (2014) in his research entitled “A Study in Character: An Analysis of Sherlock Holmes Characterization” claims that the word characteristic is typical of a person that explicitly mentioned by the person itself and other person by deducing

what the person does. Moreover, as a reference to write a good fiction, studying characteristics by circumstance and experience of the character that explained in the novel can give valuable information about development of human potentials such as justice, diligence, compassion, respect, and courage, and to understand about empathy.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing Lacey Farrell's characteristics in novel entitled "Pretend You Don't See Her" by Marry Higgins Clark published in 1957, a number one bestseller novel-based on New York Time Magazine. Furthermore, the researcher is interested in choosing this novel because of the interesting storytelling in the novel. The word "characteristic" in the title is chosen because the novel's author creates exciting characteristics shown by the story of the novel. This novel tells about Lacey Farrell, the main character who witnesses a murder. She is put in the witness protection program because the murderer knows that she is the only one who can identify the murderer, and the murderer begins to hunt her.

1.2. Research Problems

Based on the background of the study, the problems can be formulated as follows:

1. How is Lacey Farrell's characteristics after witnessing a murder in the novel entitled "Pretend You Don't See Her"?
2. What are the impacts of her characteristics toward her life?

1.3. Research Objectives

This study intends to find the answer of statement of the problems above, they are:

1. To explain Lacey Farrell's characteristic after witnessing a murder in novel entitled "Pretend You Don't See Her"
2. To describe the impacts of Lacey Farrell's characteristics to her life

1.4. Research Significance

The significances of the study are divided into two parts, they are:

1. Theoretically: The result of this study aims to contribute to the theory of literature to develop knowledge and comprehension about literature.
2. Practically: The results of this study may become important references for the students and lecturers of English Language Education Department, faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Muhammadiyah Malang. The result of this study is intended to develop knowledge and comprehension about literature.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

There are several elements that can be analyzed in the novel such as the theme, figurative language, plot, etc. The researcher takes scope on Lacey Farrell as the main character of the novel entitled "Pretend You Don't See Her" by Mary Higgins Clark and limits this study on Lacey Farrell's characteristics and the impact of her characteristics to her life.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid incorrect interpretation of terms, this study defines the terms as follows:

- a. Character: Representation of human being, the inner self that determines thought (Diyani 2001:55)
- b. Characteristic: Typical of person that explicitly mentioned by the person itself and other person by deducing what the person does (Carli, 2014:9)
- c. Novel: Written documented history that covers numerous kinds of topics, which has aesthetical element (Goodyer, 2008:11)
- d. Lacey Farrell: Main character in the novel
- e. Pretend You Don't See Her: Title of the novel written by Marry Higgins Clark.